

Back to the Future



WHO? Us – librarians, library staff, library supporters, and all who care about the future of library services in Rhode Island

WHAT? The [LibFutures Steering Committee's](#) statewide "Town Meeting" on the future of RI libraries, facilitated by nationally-known library consultant, Maureen Sullivan

WHEN? Monday, December 6, 2004, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

WHERE? The Bello Center Grand Hall at [Bryant University](#)

WHY? A year ago, many of us heard author Jim Gilmore describe an exciting futuristic environment.

Six months ago, many of us participated in a day-long conference that explored trends and opportunities for libraries that had us all thinking, "If only. . ."

Six months ago, the RI General Assembly approved a Legislative Commission to Study the Future of Rhode Island Libraries.

Over the last several weeks some of us have heard concerns voiced that question the need for hiring a consultant to conduct a comprehensive study. Should we first—or instead—examine past recommendations and evaluate their tenability? Are we all "in sync" as we look forward?

THE TIME IS RIPE TO GO **BACK TO THE FUTURE!** YOUR HELP IS NEEDED. SPEAK OUT NOW . . . OR FOREVER . . . (YOU KNOW WHAT)!

- To help develop a shared vision.
- To help formulate what our next steps will be and plan for implementation.
- To help determine what is needed so that your library can better serve its clientele.
- To help work through any unresolved issues; e.g. the roles of the automated networks, the Providence Public Library, and the Office of Library & Information Services; the status of school libraries; and any other issues of concern.
- To help prepare for the work of the newly established Legislative Commission.

BE PREPARED. Read the [RI Library Study](#) and [Blue Ribbon Committee](#) report for discussion on December 6. If possible, look also at [OCLC's Environmental Scan](#).

REGISTER for this **free** event by sending an email no later than 5 p.m. Wednesday, 12/1/04, to LibFutures committee member Tovah Reis at Tovah_Reis@brown.edu. Use "Count me in" for the subject line. Internal message should be your name, phone number and library. You will receive a confirmation by return email.

CAN'T MAKE IT? To be sure your voice is heard; email your concerns by registration deadline to LibFutures Committee member De Johnson, dejohnson2@earthlink.net,